

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of October 17, 2005**

- 1. Certificate of Occupancy:** On Thursday, October 20, Montgomery County approved a partial final certificate of occupancy for the new community center. Because of remaining construction details, the space will remain closed to public and staff until Monday morning, October 24. Moving of City offices will begin Monday morning. Use of the new meeting rooms and art rooms will begin later in the week or during the week of October 31. The Computer Learning Center will not be open for several weeks, as it will take time to assemble furniture, and set up the computer equipment. City offices will remain open for business throughout this transition time. Computers and phone lines may not be accessible to staff at times, so there may be short delays in returning calls, but we are working to make sure we can serve the public. However, no passport services will be offered during the week of October 24. A full schedule of the move process, with directions as to where to park and how to enter the building for programs and services, can be found on the City's web page, <http://www.cityoftakomapark.org> (*Community & Government Liaison*)
- 2. Grand Opening Postponed:** The delay in opening the Takoma Park Community Center means that the events planned for Saturday, October 22nd have been postponed. The City Council will discuss a new date, and perhaps a different arrangement of opening activities, at the Council meeting on Monday evening, October 24. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
- 3. Concert Moved:** The concert sponsored by the House of Musical Traditions, planned to be held in the auditorium (City Council Chambers) on Saturday evening, has been moved. The new venue will be the Washington Theological Union at 6896 Laurel Street, N.W., at Eastern Avenue in DC (just over the MD/DC line in Takoma), still at 8pm. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
- 4. Officers-to-Be:** Six candidates passed the oral interview panel for communications dispatcher, entering the background investigation process. (*Police*)
- 5. Priorities:** Preparation for the Accreditation On-site visit and for moving to the lower level have been the focus for this week. (*Police*)
- 6. Street Restoration (Wards 1 & 6):** Concrete repairs have been completed on Dogwood Avenue (Ward 1) and Holton Lane (Jackson to New Hampshire Avenue) (Ward 6). Work was begun on Park Avenue this week and will continue into next week. There will be a streetscape improvement on Park Avenue that will narrow the intersection of Park and Philadelphia to provide safer passage for pedestrians (Ward 1). (*Public Works*)
- 7. Stormwater Improvements (Wards 1 & 2):** A new stormdrain line was started on Heather Alley and Heather Avenue. Work should be completed next week. Work will be done to improve an existing stormwater inlet on Dogwood and Birch Avenue next week. (*Public Works*)

8. Raingarden Proposal (Ward 2): Friends Of Sligo Creek have designed a raingarden for an area in Forest Park. FOSC met with several City staff including the City Engineer, Gardener and Arborist to discuss the design. Several alterations were made to enhance tree protections. FOSC will hold a neighborhood meeting at the park on October 29 at 10am to present the idea to the neighbors. If approved by the community, FOSC will plan installation for this Fall. *(Public Works)*

9. Enterprise Zone (Wards 2, 3, and 6): A series of focus groups were held last week to learn about business and property owners needs with respect to economic development in the Long Branch / Takoma Park Enterprise Zone. The Enterprise zone is located along the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue corridor. Initial responses indicate that important issues will be signage and facade improvements, increasing public and business safety, offering business skills training to newer small businesses, increasing opportunities for contact and information sharing between business owners, and streetscape improvement/beautification. For more information please contact David Suls, Associate Planner, at 301.891.7219 or by email at Davids@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Business Financial Incentives Fair (Wards 2, 3, and 6): The HCD Department is hosting a Financial Incentives Fair for Takoma Park businesses located in the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue and Piney Branch/Flower Avenue corridors on Tuesday, November 1, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Speakers will provide information on tax incentives for business expansion including expansion that has occurred in past tax years. Additional information will be offered on resources available to the area. For more details, please contact David Suls, Associate Planner, at 301.891.7219 or by email at DavidS@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Walkable Communities Workshops: These workshops are open to the public and will address pedestrian safety. All concerned parties are strongly encouraged to participate. Times and Locations: Piney Branch Rd, Monday, 9 AM-noon, October 24th at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Junction Monday, 1 PM-5 PM, October 24th at Columbia Union College, 7600 Flower Ave., Columbia Room, 2nd Floor, Wilkinson Hall; Flower Avenue Tuesday, 1 PM-5 PM, October 25th at the Washington Adventist Hospital 7600 Carroll Ave., Conference Room 1; Langley Park, Tuesday 6 PM - 9 PM October 25th at the Recreation Center at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219 or DavidS@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. Verizon Repairs to Phone Lines on Carroll Avenue (Ward 1): Verizon has been repairing the conduit that was damaged when the gas company lowered a gas line for the streetscape project. Service has been restored to customers, however, there are still some repairs to be completed on the conduit that is scheduled for Monday morning, weather permitting. The same day that work is completed the dirt will be backfilled and items cleared off the sidewalk. Verizon will meet with the City early next week to address any damage to the sidewalk/curb. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner, at 301.891.7205 or by email at ilonab@takomagov.org. *(Housing and Community Development)*

13. Laurel Avenue (Ward 1 & 3): The sidewalk is scheduled to be cleaned Tuesday weather permitting. PEPCO is repairing an item in the lights and they should be

operational this weekend or early next week. The contractor will continue to work on the remaining items. For more information please contact Ilona Blanchard, Senior Planner, at 301.891.7205 or by email at ilonab@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)